



## Joshua Kendall Rathburn

March 1, 1998 - December 9, 2014

Joshua Kendall Rathburn arrived home to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on December 9, 2014. The number of people Joshua blessed is, in a word, miraculous. Small in stature, Joshua was a giant in spirit. He loved, sang, and danced his way through his brief sojourn on Earth, always inviting each person he met to drop their social norm inhibitions, and join with him in "Joshua's Song". Left to cherish each moment we were blessed with Joshua's presence are, his parents, Kim and Ken, his "Sissy", Hillary (and her husband Charles Franklin Haynes, III), his brother Cory Distefano (and his wife Stephanie), his grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, a niece, and friends, whose number were literally countless. We will always love you, Joshua, and we will try to carry on your legacy of equal parts unconditional love, and joy. We eagerly look forward to the day we join you in your dancing on the streets of gold.

There will not be a funeral service. Instead, there be a celebration of Joshua in the upcoming weeks, with family and friends receiving an announcement of particulars.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joshua's name to a very worthy cause, St. Michael Special School, 1522 Chippewa St., New Orleans, LA 70130, would be greatly appreciated. Arrangements by L. A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joshua Kendall Rathburn*

October 15, 2023 at 09:39 PM



“ *Danielle Jensen lit a candle in memory of Joshua Kendall Rathburn*



**Danielle Jensen** - January 13, 2015 at 12:28 PM



“ *Wanted to say how sorry I am for your loss. Our family is thinking about yours as you struggle through this. Danielle, Lars, Daniel and Natalie ~\*~*

**Danielle Jensen** - January 13, 2015 at 12:27 PM



“ *Kim and Ken ... My heart is broken for you. Although I never had the privilege of meeting Josh, I feel as though I knew him . I could especially tell from Hillary's posts what a special love the two of them had. His memory will remain a treasure for you all til you are all reunited in Heaven.*

**Cindi Dier** - December 18, 2014 at 09:59 PM

KB

“ Ken,

*We extend our deepest sympathy. Though we never met Joshua, we know how very special he was (after reading his heartfelt obituary and the tributes by others).*

*May God bless, Virgin Mary guide, and Guardian Angel protect you and your family.*

*Karen and Greg Barton*

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**Karen Barton** - December 18, 2014 at 06:38 PM

AD

“ *Anne Derbes lit a candle in memory of Joshua Kendall Rathburn*



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**Anne Derbes** - December 18, 2014 at 05:50 PM

AD

*Although I did not have the pleasure of meeting Josh, I felt the sunshine and love through all of his photographs which were the biggest smiles I have ever seen. God Bless his family as i can only imagine how hard it will be without him. Lord Jesus please give them peace.*

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**Anne Derbes** - December 18, 2014 at 05:57 PM

AH

“ That little guy was so cool. He was so beautiful a spirit with so much joy shown in his eyes and wide smile. I loved him and appreciate so much, Ken Rathburn and family, letting me and so many others share in the love and life of Josh. I can't wait to meet him in Heaven. Be patient and know that one day Jesus will reunite you and yours. ?

Audrey Huntsinger - December 16, 2014 at 11:36 PM

KH

“ I was so blessed to be around Josh for several years. I have been remembering how much fun it was visiting with him on the ride to Alexandria with ya'll. He helped me feel so much better that trip. Praying for all of you.



Kendra Heinz

Kendra Heinz - December 16, 2014 at 08:03 PM

BH

“ What a privilege it has been to be a part of Joshua's life, (if only in prayer), We have seen him grow up through the eyes and pictures of his aunt Karen. Our prayers are with you from all at Elberon Christian Church of Woody Ca. Pastor Bruce and Sharon Hatton

Bruce Hatton - December 16, 2014 at 06:52 PM

DH

“ I had the pleasure of sitting near Josh and his wonderful family in church. My heart is so heavy for his family, then I think of Josh and how excited he would get when the worship music started and I can't help but smile. He'd turn around and catch my eye then smile ear to ear while clapping his hands! My life is richer having met him.

Debbie Hidalgo - December 16, 2014 at 01:56 PM

JD

“ ken,

*I was so sorry to hear about your loss. I never got to meet Josh, but I remember the stories you told and how you lit up speaking about your son. Please know that you, Kim and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during the is time.*

*Jeff Dart  
New Orleans, LA*

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**Jeffrey Daart** - December 16, 2014 at 09:52 AM

SR

“ Joshua,

*Wow, what a special person you were, If someone was in the room feeling down and you walked in then you instantly brought smiles to everyone's face.*

*your excitement was catching and you would have everyone clapping with you and having fun. I must say I am going to miss you, but you have left a spot in my heart that is warming every time I see your face. You have touched many, many hearts on this earth and I will be forever thankful for you touching mine.*

*I love you little buddy!*

*your cousin,*

*Scott Caro Rathburn*

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**Scott Caro Rathburn** - December 15, 2014 at 08:31 PM

GI

“ I never met you, Josh ... wish I had! Aunt Karin and uncle Joe are big fans! Hope your mom and dad celebrate your life everyday! May family, friends and faith fill their hearts with love, always.  
Giselle



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**Giselle** - December 15, 2014 at 05:09 PM



“ "didn't know Josh ..only through a dear friend Karin Trahan..God bless him and care for him.....he is in a safe and happy place.....keep "wigglin" on....."

*Sharon Martin....Sydney Australia..*

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**Sharon Martin** - December 15, 2014 at 04:48 PM

KT

“ Joshua,

*Every ones joy!! Oh how we will miss your sunny disposition, your love for people & the love they had for you!! Words are so meaningless when we mention your name, you just had to know you or be known by other people telling of your endless energy, your captivating smile, your love of dancing, singing & music in general!! The love for laughter & making everyone laugh was the light that shined the brightest, that was God's gift to you in this not so bright world!! I will love that memory most of all & the time that GOD gave me to spend with you. I was so blessed to set & watch Family Feud with you, not asking anything else of me but to just enjoy what made you happy. Thank you JESUS for that special time with our "Boy" it means the world to me! I know Joshua is telling everyone the answers to all the questions on the Family Feud and singing, dancing to all the Christian music he loved soooooo much, on the streets of gold!! You were the Joy in all our lives & we will love you & always cherish the time spent with you!! Again thank you LORD for giving us Joshua for 16 of the most wonderful years of our lives, in Your Holy Name, Amen.*

*You were my joy & special light. I will love you forever  
Aunt Karin & Uncle Joe*

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**karin trahan** - December 15, 2014 at 12:19 PM

KG

“ To Joshua's Family,  
Although we have never met we know all of you very well through Joshua's Aunt Karin and Uncle Joe. What a wonderfully made young man Joshua was. A very fine example of God's perfection and Christ's love. We were always touched and completely humbled at how Joshua handled life as, we were told, always staying upbeat with a smile on his face. As he faced challenge upon challenge in his short lifetime, we here in California got a play by play, all the while praying for him to conquer each one. Well, he did just that! "Welcome home my child" is what Joshua heard from his Lord and Savior and we are rejoicing for him right now. Thank you for allowing us to be humbled and encouraged by this wonderful young man... Our prayers are with you of course.  
Love, The Grisedale Family

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**Kellie Grisedale** - December 15, 2014 at 12:04 PM

CH

“ Joshua,  
It's an honor to be your cousin, and a pleasure to call you family. And although you left this world much too soon, boy did you make it a better place. I'll always love and cherish my sweet, sweet cousin Josh.

*The best memories were those when we spent Thanksgiving with you! Countless "Wiggles" and "SpongeBob" episodes. You would always get me to dance and clap with you. So many smiles and giggles! I love you so much!*  
Love, Cousin Chloe

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**Chloe Hodges** - December 14, 2014 at 01:00 PM

MR

“ Sweet Josh.

*Always filled everyone with happiness. I will always remember your love for music. I will always remember your love for life. And I will always remember how you brought such joy to my heart. You will forever be in my heart and when I listen to Harry Connick Jr. I will hear your sweet voice singing in heaven.*

*I miss you but thank you for making the heavens extra beautiful with your beautiful smile and voice. You will be forever and always in my heart.*

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**Melissa Richard** - December 14, 2014 at 09:42 AM

TD

“ Joshua was always smiling and he always made my day! He had just started eating lunch at school and he wouldn't eat much. When someone would try to get him to eat more he would take a bite and say "I'll eat two bites for TerriLynn!" We remember him often and he has blessed TerriLynn with such joy in her life. Every time we speak of him and our memories of class time with Joshua she is always smiling. Mrs Kim and family we love you and will keep you in our prayers!

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**Tammy & Terri Lynn Dennis** - December 14, 2014 at 08:20 AM

JC

“ What beautiful spirit. He touch so many of us, even those that never met him.

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**Jeanne Calderera** - December 14, 2014 at 07:09 AM

JT

“ *What fond memories I have ! Always smiling and full of life, I feel blessed to have known Josh and his wonderful parents.*

*Jan Covington Theriot*

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**jan theriot** - December 13, 2014 at 05:09 PM

SK

“ *My heart and prayers go out to Kim and Ken and the family. Joshua was a child filled with joy and delight and I have no doubt he is brightening up heaven. I was blessed to know him.*

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**Sharon Kerlec** - December 13, 2014 at 12:12 PM

ML

“ *I began to ponder on my favorite qualities about Josh and they are: intelligence, funny, and uniqueness !  
You know; just realized I never liked knock-knock jokes before I met Josh. How about that? Now, I've never hear a knock-knock joke that I don't like, all because of Josh's wonderful sense of humor! Pretty awesome gifts, besides all the pretty bracelets I received as Christmas gifts over the years. May the memories of Josh last you until the day you are all together hugging him in the perfect world God has in our future!  
Much Love, Ms Maddie*

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**madeline lombardi** - December 13, 2014 at 11:02 AM

LH

“ *Joshua's smile could light up a room!*

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**Lynn Albanese Hymel** - December 13, 2014 at 09:52 AM

SB

“ I was also blessed to meet Josh and Kim at New Sarpy Elementary. Josh was always smiling and happy. How could he not be with a wonderful Mom like Kim to watch over him and guide him through his days? I remember him clapping and talking about his favorite game show! Josh is at peace, resting in the presence of Jesus. I pray for his family to have peace and comfort knowing that they gave him a wonderful, happy life.

*Stephanie Becnel*

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**Stephanie Becnel** - December 13, 2014 at 09:52 AM

MD

“ Josh was a kindergartner when I was the Principal of New Sarpy Kindergarten. He was loved by all. His teachers always knew how to get him excited about learning and treated him as if he was their own. He loved learning and his teachers which made this relatively easy! His parents worked very closely with the school to insure he was always getting the best care and education. Josh was an angel on earth and is now taking care of all the little ones in Heaven, making them laugh and smile and looking down on us with Jesus!

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**Michele deBruler** - December 13, 2014 at 09:27 AM

GS

“ I met Josh when I started helping Kim and Ken find a new home. I felt a strong connection to this family immediately, but I knew right away that the little boy with the infectious smile was very special. It was easy to see that Josh brightened a room wherever he went. Heaven is even brighter now!!

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**Gayle Sisk** - December 13, 2014 at 09:12 AM

KT

“ Joshua and his family came into my life when he was a student at New Sarpy Elementary. He was always seen with a smile on his face and so ready to share his day with you. As an Administrator at that time, on many occasions I would visit with Josh to see how he was doing, and the conversations we had left me feeling in awe of what God's presence in a child can do. You will be missed my my lil man, but know you will not be forgotten.

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**Karen Tweedy** - December 13, 2014 at 08:43 AM

ML

“ I will cherish the days Joshua made me laugh and the many knock-knock jokes I learned just to share with him. We learned sign language @ the same time and practiced it at lunchtime. I will never forget how proud he was when his classmates discovered how smart he was! At brain break, I followed him as he shared the knock-knock jokes with his classmates. He was a joy to be with and he taught me so much, which enabled me to help others. I can't wait to see him again in his glorified body, looking forward to that day!

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**madeline lombardi** - December 13, 2014 at 07:22 AM

RC

“ Dearest Joshua,  
You left us much too soon. My fondest memory of you is when we spent some time together sitting on a couch looking at some old photos. It was at Uncle Jim Roy's memorial and Shawna Sue had divided all of Uncle Jim Roy's photos to give to his siblings. I happened to start looking at a pile that belonged to Uncle Ken, your dad. I was tickled that you came over and sat next to me but secretly thought that maybe your dad sent you over to make sure that I didn't swipe any of the photos that belonged to him. JK Uncle Ken! As we sat together and looked at the photos, you pointed out all the people in the pictures to me, I knew who they were but I just enjoyed hearing you tell me who they were. We had a few laughs as we came across some photos that were taken years ago when the aunts and uncles were much younger, a few pounds lighter and had more hair. Not talking about you Uncle Ken.  
My deepest regret is that we did not spend more time together but I am so thankful for the time on the couch.

Uncle Ken and Aunt Kim your rise to the challenge of raising such an extraordinary young man has always amazed me. Thank you for sharing the miracle that was Joshua Kendall Rathburn with us. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this very difficult time. Much love to you!

Rosie Champagne

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Rosie Champagne - December 13, 2014 at 01:02 AM

JH

“ I remember him Singing and dancing to the wiggle and when I walked in the door him calling me jina lol he couldn't say Johnna. will always love and adore him. He was an amazing loving boy who could put a smile on your face even in the darker a days

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johnna hurd - December 12, 2014 at 10:59 PM

KE

“ *The wonderful routines we shared. And, the smile that should have come with a warning: "Sunglasses required". Each day when I would come home from my office, and you were waiting with the smile, and a straightening of my tie, until you got it just right. Then, a kiss on your head, and all was right with the world. I will always love you, Bug.*

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**Ken** - December 12, 2014 at 10:02 PM

SI

“ *Joshua, you were my heart. I will love you and miss you until the day I join you and Jesus. Dance your little heart out my little fighter man. Sissy cherishes everything you gave her by being her little man. You're my favorite Josh in the whole wide wiggly world. I'll see you soon my love!*

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**Sissy** - December 12, 2014 at 09:37 PM